

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-18 and 20-23 remain in this application. Claims 1-5, 9, 11, 13, 18 and 20 have been amended, and claims 10 and 19 have been canceled. Claim 23 is a new claim.

Applicant acknowledges the indication in the Office Action of claims 10-13 and 19-21 being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, independent claims 9 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 10 and 19, respectively, and are now believed to be allowable.

Claims 1-9 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannon et al. (US 20040047389) in view of Chee (US 6,671,107); and claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannon et al. in view of Chee and Kitamura (US 4,474,422).

The invention recited in amended claim 1 comprises a pre-scan lens assembly including a carrier supporting a pre-scan lens. The carrier includes a pair of carrier alignment surfaces located on opposing sides of the carrier for cooperating with angular alignment datum surfaces on a pre-scan mount to align the lens optical axis with a laser beam axis. In addition, the carrier includes a flexible central structure joining the opposing sides of the carrier such that the carrier alignment surfaces are movable relative to one another.

Cannon et al. disclose a carrier (34a, 34b) for aligning a pre-scan lens relative a support structure 194a. The carrier includes a pair of engagement portions 198a, 200a, located on one side of the carrier for engaging a guide bar 202a of the support structure to locate the carrier in a direction transverse to a longitudinal direction of movement. Cannon et al. do not disclose providing carrier alignment surfaces located on opposing sides of the carrier and movable relative to each other for engaging surfaces on a pre-scan mount.

Chee discloses a carrier 70 for restraining a pre-scan lens. The carrier includes wings 84 and 86 to be received in tracks 28, 30 of a channel 16 of a housing 12. Each track 28, 30 includes a respective horizontal base 32, 34 and a respective vertical side 36, 38. The wings 84, 86 are described as:

“resting on base 32 and base 34 of tracks 28 and 30, respectively, just

inwardly of sides 36 and 38 with minimal clearance therebetween. Thus, lens carrier 70 fits snugly in tracks 28 and 30.”

Chee does not disclose a flexible central structure joining the opposing sides of the carrier such that the carrier alignment surfaces are movable relative to one another. Nor does the cited prior art disclose providing carrier alignment surfaces located on opposing sides of the carrier and movable relative to each other for engaging surfaces on a pre-scan mount, as is now recited in claim 1.

New claim 23 has been added to further recite that the carrier alignment surfaces are movable away from each other to locate the carrier alignment surfaces in engagement with the angular alignment datum surfaces located on the pre-scan mount.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9, 11-18 and 20-23 define patentably over the prior art.

It is noted that the Cannon et al. reference has not been cited on the Form PTO-892 provided with the Office Action. It is respectfully requested that this reference be cited for publication on any patent that issues from the present application.

If the present amendment raises any questions or the Examiner believes that an interview would facilitate prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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